

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of forming a slit-to-order relatively narrow pressure-sensitive adhesive tape or tapes from an inventory including a relatively wide roll of pressure-sensitive adhesive tape stock comprising a substrate coated with a layer of pressure-sensitive adhesive, the method comprising the steps of unwinding the relatively wide roll of pressure-sensitive adhesive tape stock, combining adhesive-inhibiting masking with the adhesive of said unwound stock along a continuous machine-direction line or lines at an intermediate point or points across the width of the unwound stock, and slitting said substrate, adhesive layer and masking along said line or lines to form at least one slit tape narrower in width than said roll of tape stock.

2. A method of manufacturing self-wound pressure-sensitive-adhesive transfer tapes comprising combining release means with the first and second faces of a substrate with the second face having the easier release, combining a layer of pressure-sensitive adhesive with the first face of said substrate, combining adhesive-inhibiting masking with said adhesive along a continuous machine-direction line or lines, and slitting said substrate, adhesive layer and masking along said line or lines to form at least one slit tape having an edge thickness substantially equal to the average thickness of the tape across its width.

3. A method as in the preceding claim in which at least two slit tapes are formed in said slitting step, and including the steps of winding the slit tapes into slit rolls, and subsequently unwinding at least one of said slit rolls, combining additional adhesive-inhibiting masking with the adhesive of said slit roll along a continuous machine-direction line or lines at an intermediate point or points across the width of the slit roll, and slitting said

9 substrate, adhesive layer and masking along said line or lines
10 to form at least one additional slit tape narrower than the
11 tape forming said slit roll.

1 4. A method of manufacturing pressure-sensitive tape
2 comprising the steps of feeding a substrate along a
3 manufacturing line, combining a layer of pressure-sensitive
4 adhesive with a first face of said substrate, printing said
5 layer of pressure-sensitive adhesive with a patterned
6 adhesive-inhibiting masking to define a masking pattern
7 comprising at least one continuous line, slitting said
8 substrate, adhesive layer and masking along said at least one
9 continuous line defined by said pattern coating to form a slit
10 tape having an edge thickness substantially equal to the
11 average thickness of the tape across its width, and further
12 processing said slit tape by releasably combining the side of
13 said pressure-sensitive adhesive layer bearing said masking
14 against a second substrate face, said second substrate face
15 comprising the other face of said first-named substrate to
16 thereby produce a self-wound tape, or comprising the face of
17 an additional substrate to thereby produce a multisubstrate
18 tape.

1 5. A method as in the preceding claim in which said
2 combining of said pressure-sensitive layer against said second
3 substrate face is preceded by the coating of at least parts
4 of said second substrate face with a release coating.

1 6. In a diaper having adhesive fastener tapes, each
2 fastener tape having substrate means having an inner and an
3 outer end and being fastened at its inner end to one part of
4 the diaper, each tape having a pressure-sensitive adhesive
5 face at least at the outer end of said substrate means, said
6 face being carried on release means which in turn is carried
7 on said one part of the diaper, said substrate means being
8 adapted to have its outer end peeled from and thereby deployed

9 from said one part of the diaper for fastening to another part
10 of the diaper to thereby establish a user joint and fasten the
11 diaper, said adhesive face being peelable from said release
12 means to effect said deployment, the outer end of said
13 substrate means having lift tab means for initiating said
14 peeling of said outer end, the improvement comprising
15 providing said lift tab means in the form of a printed
16 adhesive-inhibiting masking means on the adhesive face at the
17 outermost part of said outer end.

1 7. A device as in the preceding claim, said adhesive-
2 inhibiting masking means being in contact with said release
3 means.

1 8. A device as in the preceding claim, said adhesive-
2 inhibiting masking means extending across the width of said
3 tape.

1 9. A device as in the preceding claim, the end boundary
2 of said outer end comprising a slit-formed edge intersecting
3 the extremities of said tape, said adhesive face and said
4 adhesive-inhibiting masking means.

1 10. In a diaper fastener formed of a web construction
2 of linerless reclosable diaper fastener stock made up of
3 initially flat but flexible layers suitable to be formed in
4 long passes along the machine direction of a coating and
5 laminating line and to be rolled up for storage and shipment,
6 and unrolled for use by diaper manufacturers, and fabricatable
7 completely by web coating, slitting and web-to-web laminating
8 operations and without the necessity for folding operations
9 and usable for high speed dispensing on automatic equipment,
10 including a first substrate bearing first substrate adhesive
11 on its underside, and extending, transversely to machine
12 direction, along first and second length portions, and one or
13 more additional substrates bearing one or more corresponding

14 substrate adhesives and extending along said first and second
15 length portions, said fastener being mountable around the edge
16 of a diaper with said first substrate constituting an
17 anchoring substrate and said second length portions of said
18 one or more additional substrates comprising deployment means
19 separable from said second length portion of said anchoring
20 substrate for deployment and engagement with another part of
21 the diaper, and end-tab means associated with the free end of
22 said deployment means, the improvement wherein said end tab
23 means associated with at least one of said at least one or
24 more additional substrates is defined by adhesive-inhibiting
25 masking means printed on the substrate adhesive associated
26 with said at least one substrate.

1 11. A construction as in the preceding claim in which
2 the thickness of said masking means is less than 1 percent
3 of the combined thickness of the associated substrate and
4 substrate adhesive, whereby said diaper fastener stock from
5 which the fastener is formed has a substantially uniform edge-
6 to-edge thickness, said stock may be tightly rolled, and the
7 layer edges at both sides of rolls of said stock are solidly
8 supported by adjacent layer edges.